

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-6 and 8-12k, of which claim 1 is independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Claims 1, 8, and 12 were objected to because of informalities noted therein. Applicants have addressed those objections by amending each of claims 1, 8, and 12. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully sought.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the structure which moves the pressure portion so as to weaken a pressing force exerted on the bundle of sheets during the aligning operation of the aligning portion. Applicants have also amended claims 4 and 5 to address the rejection based on lack of antecedent basis. In view of each of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, has been addressed and should now be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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